

Reaction and Response

Change in Appropriations after September 11th

Insight into the changes to the appropriations process after September 11th.

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You know, the Appropriations Committee usually has a pretty set schedule and budget process but with supplemental bills and ongoing needs that just kept them going around the clock. It really changed the dynamic of, you know, the annual appropriations process, and I think that really created an increased workload and also, trying to decipher you know, how do you address a problem? You can't just throw money at something and have that as the sole solution, so it's a combination of not only funding and changing priorities, but ensuring that there is the follow through, or the intended effect that you're looking for, and that was a very trying thing, I mean I, I can only speak from my own perspective, but certainly the committee staff and the Members I think were troubled sometimes by the difficulty to effect change in a quick manner. You know Congress can enact legislation but it takes a while for that to go into place, and you know you had the creation of the Homeland Security Department after all of this, and you know that was an authorization effort, but it also took a lot of re-organization of the Appropriations Committees on the House and Senate side to, to sort of parallel the authorization changes, because you had a whole new department created that was previously subdivided amongst other departments and agencies. So you kind of had the rewiring of the diagram, and it really impacted how funds were also channeled, so they had the creation of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, so there was, you know, a lot of work in that manner, some, some challenges obviously of melding together a whole new department. You know, any reorganization of an organization, private or public is a huge undertaking, and then when you look at having to do that with the kind of security concerns that were going on in the country at the time, I mean it's amazing that they were able to accomplish that at all.